Economic relations with Japan

1108. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand economic relations with Japan;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in that direction; and

(c) what are the new areas identified therefor?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) India and Japan already share a very close and cordial economic relationship, covering trade, aid and investments. It would be the endeavour of the Government to continue and strengthen this relationship through various means, including closer bilateral contracts at all levels. Some of the sectors identified for cooperation with Japan include rural development, small scale industries, housing, tourism and environment.

White Paper on prices

1109. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to bring out a white paper on prices;

(b) if so, whether any time limit has been fixed for that purpose;

(c) if so, by which date such white paper is proposed to be brought out; and

(d) the specific steps taken by Government to arrest the rise in the prices of essential commodities?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government has adopted a package of measures to keep the prices of essential commodities under check. These include maintaining supplies of essential commodities through Public Distribution System, augmenting domestic supplies through imports as feasible, exercising strict fiscal and monetary discipline and action against hoarders and blackmarketeers.

Grievances of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Teachers in regard to their pay scales by Fourth Pay Commission

1110. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fourth Pay Commission has ignored the interests of teachers belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes wherein their pay scales have been fixed like those of general category teachers whereas the Third Pay Commission had protected the interests of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe teachers while fixing their pay scales; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any measures to do away with the injustice done to the teachers belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes by the Fourth Pay Commission; if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) The Pay Commissions recommend pay scales for the posts and not for any particular category of persons holding a particular post. There was no difference in the approach of the Fourth Pay Commission in this regard than what was followed by the Third Pay Commission. However, in pre-revised pay structure, 20% of the posts were converted into selection grade which were filled on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness following also the principles relating to reservation in appointment for S.C./S.T. In the pay structure obtaining after 1-1-86, 12 years service is prescribed for grant of senior scale and again 12 years service is required in the senior scale for grant of selection grade. These service limits are uniformly applicable